MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. Chairman Randy Richardville called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call by Deputy Clerk, Grace Drewior, as follows:

PRESENT			ABSENT
David Hoffman	Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout	
J Henry Lievens	Randy Richardville	David Vensel	
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.		

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to conduct business.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Heinzerling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held for the lives that were lost at the fatal crash on South Custer the morning of October 15, 2024.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Drewior led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Moore, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (10/01/2024 Regular Meeting Minutes-Amended)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the amended minutes as presented for the October 1, 2024 Regular Meeting and then waived the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Steven Meyer: Shared concerns about Mark Brant's resignation letter and the vacancy on the Board. He then suggested Danielle Hoover to fill the vacant spot for District 2.

2. Aisha Hallthorne: Advocated for Danielle Hoover filling vacancy in District 2.

3. William Bruck: Shared a legislative update. Informed the Board and public he will be on the radio tomorrow in case anyone wanted to listen.

Discussion was held

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION— None.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 10/16/2024 Accounts Payable Claims Report in the amount of $1,080,454.83.

   Commissioner Vensel informed the Board of his concerns about the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission.

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Asper to accept the 10/16/2024 Accounts Payable Claims Report for $1,080,454.83 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	David Swartout		J. Henry Lievens		
Greg Moore, Jr.	Randy Richardville		David Vensel		
Dawn Asper			Jay Heinzerling		

   Motion carried.

2. Revenues, expenditures and cash balance report for the 3rd quarter ending September 30, 2024.

   Michael Bosanac, Administrator/CFO, presented report.

   Discussion was held with no action required on the informational matter.

3. Update on development of the 2025 Annual Line Item Budget.

   Presentation of power point slides by Mr. Bosanac following by discussion with no action required on the informational matter.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
   a. Check Register dated 10/04/2024 in the amount of $1,445,110.55
   b. Check Register dated 10/11/2024 in the amount of $593,910.35

   Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Swartout to confirm the non-claims payments as presented on the agenda for the dates and amounts listed.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout			
David Vensel	Randy Richardville	J. Henry Lievens			

Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.				

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated October 2, 2024 from Judge Mark Braunlich, Chief Judge, 38th Judicial Circuit Court and Judge William Paul Nichols, Adult Drug Treatment Court Judge, requesting approval to accept a grant award from the State Court Administrative Office for the grant period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for funding of the Adult Drug Treatment Court in the Amount of $50,000, with a general fund contribution in the total amount of $1,360.16. The county contribution of $350 provides for payroll processing costs that cannot be provided by the grant and $1,010.16 to cover training, lodging, and mileage expenses also not covered by the grant. An additional appropriation of up to $255.86 would be required in 2024, with the balance of $1,104.30 requested to be included in the 2025 budget.

   Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Vensel to place the communication on file and approve the acceptance of the grant award from the State Court Administrative Office for the grant period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for funding of the Adult Drug Treatment Court in the amount of $50,000, with a general fund contribution in the total amount of $1,360.16 for costs not covered by the grant. An additional appropriation of up to $255.86 would be required in 2024, with the balance of $1,104.30 requested to be included in the 2025 budget.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout			
David Vensel	Randy Richardville	J. Henry Lievens			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.				

   Motion carried.

2. Letter dated October 4, 2024 from Ms. Donna L. Kuti, Monroe County Central Dispatch Director, submitting the Integration Agreement for enhanced radio system communications with the State of Michigan, requesting approval to continue participation with the Michigan Public Safety Communication System.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Swartout, to approve continuing participation with the Michigan Public Safety Communication System and moved the model resolution of the Integration Agreement for the enhanced radio system communications with the State of Michigan be adopted.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout			
David Vensel	Randy Richardville	J. Henry Lievens			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.				

Motion carried.

3. Letter dated October 15, 2024 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director, submitting a Summary of a Farmland/Open Space review/recommendation from the County Planner and to approve an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program (part 361 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act) for property in London Township.

   Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Vensel to accept the communication along with the Summary of Farmland review/recommendation to approve an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program for property in London Township, place it on file and approve the recommendation of the County Planner.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Jay Heinzerling	David Vensel	Dawn Asper		
David Swartout	Randy Richardville				
J. Henry Lievens	Greg Moore, Jr.				

   Motion carried.

4. Letter dated October 15, 2024 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director, recommending approval of a request from the Monroe County Opportunity Program (MCOP) for emergency funding in the amount of $52,000 from the National Opioid Settlement Funds for the Adolescent Community Center (ACC) Prevention Program operated at the Opportunity Center at the Arthur Lesow Community Center.

   Community Planning & Engagement Director, Jason Berry and MCOP Executive Director, Stephanie Kasprzak gave an overview along with explanation the program and funding request.

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman, to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the allocation of opioid settlement funds in the amount of $52,000 to MCOP.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout			
David Vensel	Randy Richardville	J. Henry Lievens			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.				

   Motion carried.

5. Letter dated October 9, 2024 from Mr. Chris Westover, Environmental Health Director, requesting approval for appointments of individuals to the Materials

Management Planning Committee representing stakeholder groups outlined in Part 115 of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

Environmental Health Director, Chris Westover explained the recommendation of persons to be appointed along with the role of the Materials Management Planning Committee and the requirements of various stakeholders on the committee.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Commissioner Vensel, supported by Commissioner Hoffman, to confirm the communication place it on file and approve the appointment of individuals to the Materials Management Planning Committee as presented.

Roll call by clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout			
David Vensel	Randy Richardville	J. Henry Lievens			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.				

Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS—None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—None

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Steven Meyer: Shared concerns about Mark Brant and statements made to the press.

2. Bill Lavoy: Suggested an Ethics Commission for Monroe County. Mr. Lavoy also inquired about the section of the emergency response plan exercise for the nuclear power plant that failed and is required to be retested.

3. Mike Grodi: Invited the Board and the public to a Guided Erie Union Cemetery Tour this weekend in Erie.

4. Dwyane Dobbs: Introduced himself and stated that he was running as a write in candidate as the District 2 County Commissioner.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Tributes or Certificates issued since the October 1, 2024 meeting: None

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Passed.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Vensel – Stated the Board owes the community an explanation and suggested that Mark Brant was likely in survival mode during this process. Stated Mr. Brant was an effective Commissioner but he made a mistake. Commissioner Vensel ended his statement with saying at some point a truthful explanation is necessary, especially for why the Board was never notified of Mark Brant.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Stated he agreed that transparency was not held and said that it was disrespectful they weren't informed earlier about Mark Brant. Commissioner Heinzerling finished his comment by thanking everyone for coming out.

Commissioner Asper – Stated that she wished more people came to the Board meetings so they could see what Mark Brant did for the County. Told the public Mark Brant called her the day of the Commissioner meeting after he was sentenced to inform her of the situation. Commissioner Asper then stated that she believes two things can be true at the same time. A person can be exceptional at their job and still make a mistake. Commissioner Asper stated that Mark Brant had been the best Chairman as far back as she can recall. Finally, she stated that Mr. Bosanac and his staff have been keen in keeping this County financially sound.

Commissioner Hoffman – Stated that wrong is wrong and when you do something wrong you have to pay your dues. Commissioner Hoffman then stated that he would like to look at the by-laws and the code of conduct so this never happens again in Monroe County.

Commissioner Lievens – Stated that there is a lot of work ahead of us. He looks forward to getting more done in the future

Chairman Richardville – Stated that as of tonight, he is 100% sure that none of the commissioners knew anything about Mark Brant's legal situation. Chairman Richardville talked to Monroe County legal counsel to ensure that they are not involved in Mr. Brant's legal proceedings, which they are not. Chairman Richardville also talked to multiple different sources on ethical advice going forward.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Richardville adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Drewior

Grace Drewior
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant
Monroe County Board of Commissioner